EX PARTE OR LATE FILED (- 77 - > ORIGINAL RECEIVED

From:

Mary Riddick

To:

"\"[your lynx account here]\"@lynx.dac.neu.edu"@RO.

Date:

Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:28 PM

Subject:

Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

JUL 2 2 1999

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that interactions commission forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25. Office of Secretary

>>> "[Your Name Here]" <"[your lynx account here]"@lynx.dac.neu.edu> 07/12 6:03 PM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman.

Commissioner Gloria Tristani.

Commissioner Michael Powell

Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission

The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,

Bill Bradley, and George W Bush

cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard.

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive. local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others

No. of Copies rec'd List ABCDE

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

- 1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
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- 3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
- 4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses

from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.

- 5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.
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- 8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
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- 12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

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Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director ,Center for Constitutional Rights
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments= name=Tracey A. Kerr street=746 Broadway city=Somerville state=MA zip=02144 =Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED X-99-25

From:

Mary Riddick

To: Date: "eholar@webmethods.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1

Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:29 PM

Subject:

Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

JUL 2 2 1999

ORIGINALRECEIVED

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it **fleder the Softmunications Commission** forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

Office of Secretary

>>> "Elliot P. Holar" <eholar@webmethods.com> 07/12 6:29 PM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,

Commissioner Gloria Tristani,

Commissioner Michael Powell

Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission

The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore,

Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.

cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

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Additional Comments=
name=Elliot P. Holar
street=4611 N. Carlin Springs Rd.
city=Arlington
state=VA
zip=22203
=Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From:

Mary Riddick

To:

"kurttm@philly.infi.net"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1

Date:

Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:29 PM

Subject:

Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

JUL 2 2 1999

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25. Federal Com

Federal Communications Communication

>>> Kurt Konietzko <kurttm@philly.infi.net> 07/12 6:33 PM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,

Commissioner Gloria Tristani,

Commissioner Michael Powell

Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission

The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Kurt Konietzko Ph.D. Psychologist

Additional Comments=

name=

street=

city=

state=

zip=

=Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED 5

From:

Mary Riddick

To:

"steve_leonard@credence.com"@ROUTE A.GWIA1

Date:

Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:03 PM

Subject:

Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

JUL 2 2 1999

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

Office of Secretary

>>> Steve Leonard <steve_leonard@credence.com> 07/12 2:45 PM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,

Commissioner Gloria Tristani,

Commissioner Michael Powell

Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission

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Additional Comments=
name=Steve Leonard
street=119 Wilkes Circle
city=Santa Cruz
state=CA
zip=95060
=Send to FCC

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"kamana@slip.net"@ROUTE A.GWIA1

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>>> Scott Kamana Stewart <kamana@slip.net> 07/12 6:30 PM >>>

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Commissioner Michael Powell

Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission

The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore,

Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.

cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others

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Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

- Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
- 2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
- Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
- 4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses

from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.

- 5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.
- 6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
- 7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
- 8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
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Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair: Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University Nancy Kranich--Librarian Ron Daniels--Executive Director Center for Constitutional Rights George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting Mark Crispin Miller--New York University Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program At Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters) Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored Ellen Braune--Publicist Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press Juliet Schor--Harvard University Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego Barbara Ehrenreich--Author Gloria Steinem--Ms. Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
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city=San Francisco
state=CA.
zip=94131
=Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED K-99-25

From:

Mary Riddick

To:

"rbogle@sonic.net"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1

ORIGINAL

Date: Subject: Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:30 PM

Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

JUL 2 2 **1999**

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

Federal Communications Commission Office of Secretary

>>> Rick Bogle <rbogle@sonic.net> 07/12 8:43 PM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,

Commissioner Gloria Tristani.

Commissioner Michael Powell

Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

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Additional Comments= name=Lynn/Pauly street=54 Gray Lawn city=Petaluma state=CA zip=94952 =Send to FCC EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From:

Mary Riddick

To:

"irlizard@cwix.com"@ROUTE A.GWIA1

Date:

Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:03 PM

Subject:

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RECEIVED

JUL 2 2 1999

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

>>> jrlizard <jrlizard@cwix.com> 07/12 4:41 PM >>>

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Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

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Additional Comments=
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=Send to FCC